



Evans Vucci/Associated Press

U.S. top military brass from around the globe gather at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia for an impromptu meeting.

Trump: U.S. is ‘under invasion from within’

Meeting with top military brass takes aim at culture wars, ‘woke’ policies

By Ben Finley,
Konstantin Toropin
and Evan Vucci
ASSOCIATED PRESS

QUANTICO, Va. — President Donald Trump on Tuesday proposed using American cities as training grounds for the armed forces and spoke of needing U.S. military might to combat what he called the “invasion from within.”

Addressing an audience of military brass abruptly summoned to Virginia, Trump outlined a scathing and at times norm-shattering view of the military’s role in domestic affairs. He was joined by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who



Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth talks up a focus on “the warrior ethos,” slamming the “era of politically correct.”

declared an end to “woke” culture and announced new directives for troops that include “gender-neutral” or “male-level” standards for physical fitness.

The dual messages underscored the Trump administration’s efforts not only to reshape contemporary Pentagon culture but to enlist military resources for the president’s priorities and decidedly domestic purposes, including quelling unrest and violent crime.

“We should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military,” Trump said. He noted at another point: “We’re under invasion

Pentagon continues on A4

UT System to review gender courses for compliance

By Lily Kepner
STAFF WRITER

After a tumultuous month in which Texas public universities faced heightened scrutiny over course content on gender identity and LGBTQ studies, the University of Texas System announced Tuesday that it will review all gender studies courses at its 14 institu-

tions for compliance with law and the “priorities of the Board of Regents.”

“The U.T. System has been reviewing courses on gender identity taught at all U.T. institutions to ensure compliance and alignment with applicable law and state and federal guidance, and to make sure any courses that are taught on U.T. campuses are aligned with the

direction and priorities of the Board of Regents,” the system’s statement, shared first with the American-Statesman, said. “This review will be discussed at the November Board of Regents’ meeting.”

The UT System, which educates 260,000 students each year, has largely avoided attention while other state universities faced calls in September to

fire professors, expel students and censor courses for liberal-leaning speech after viral videos caught the attention of Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republican political leaders.

The system’s flagship campus in Austin announced an audit of its courses, according to a report by Texas Scorecard on Friday, which detailed clas-

Courses continues on A4

YOGURT SHOP MURDERS

Leaps in science solved cold case

Police partnered with genealogical experts for DNA hit

By Dante Motley and
Julianna Duennes Russ
STAFF WRITERS

More than three decades after the horrific slayings of four teenage girls at an Austin frozen yogurt shop, police said they finally have a definitive culprit.

The Austin Police Department announced last week that DNA evidence had linked the killings to Robert Eugene Brashers, a convicted felon and serial predator who died by suicide in 1999. During a Monday press conference, officials repeatedly credited advancements in science and technology with enabling investigators to match decades-old evidence to Brashers and close the notorious case.

The deaths of 17-year-old Eliza Thomas, 13-year-old Amy Ayers, 17-year-old Jennifer Harbison and her 15-year-old sister Sarah at the I Can’t Believe It’s Yogurt shop in Austin remained unsolved for 34 years. Investigators preserved DNA, but early profiles were too limited and degraded to yield a match.

Advancements in ballistics analysis and cutting-edge DNA testing, combined with investigative genetic genealogy, were key to the breakthroughs, leading investigators across the country in their search for the serial killer and rapist.

The only solid physical evidence left at the scene of the crime was a .380 bullet casing found in a floor drain.

In June, after working the case for two years, Austin police Detective Daniel Jackson realized he hadn’t checked the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network in some time. The network is a nationwide system operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that uses digital imaging to compare shell casings from crime scenes and link shootings to the same weapon across jurisdictions.

Police had run the shell through the data before, but since then the network had grown more advanced, Jackson said. Over the past few decades, the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network has expanded dramatically, with

Advances continues on A2

Government on brink of first shutdown in 7 years

By Mary Clare Jalonick,
Lisa Mascaro
and Stephen Groves
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats voted down a Republican bill to keep funding the government, putting it on a near certain path to a shutdown after midnight Wednesday for the first time in almost seven years.

The 55-45 vote Tuesday on the bill to extend federal funding for seven weeks fell short of the 60 needed to end a filibuster and pass the legislation. It came as Democrats are making good on their threat to close the government if President Donald Trump and Republicans won’t accede to their health care demands. Sen-

ate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Republicans are trying to “bully” Democrats by refusing to negotiate on an extension of health care benefits and other priorities.

A government closure would mean that hundreds of thousands of federal workers could be furloughed or laid off.

Trump threatened retribution on Democrats for a potential shutdown, saying Tuesday that it could include “cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like.”

Instead of negotiating, Democrats and Republicans angrily blamed each other Tuesday and refused to budge from their posi-

Shutdown continues on A3



House
Minority
Leader
Hakeem
Jeffries,
D-N.Y.,
center,
insisted on
an extension
of expiring
health care
benefits
Tuesday.

J. Scott Applewhite/
Associated Press

